PANTHERS AND THINGS

Dear Editor:

As I read the many panther stories in The Times, I am reminded to tell my experience of fifty-two years ago, when I too almost saw a panther.

One of my cousins, W. H. Collins, who now lives near Durbin, and myself hunted coons together. We were armed with an old army pistol. When the dogs would bark, one of us would buckle the old weapon around us and go up the tree. If we could see at all we would bring the coons down.

We lived at Hosterman. There was a panther which stayed on Laurel Run on the east side of Greenbrier River, right opposite Hosterman We had a cornfield on that side of the river, and one night my cousin and I went over there coon hunting. We went around the field, but did not strike anything until we came to the place where we entered the field.

There the dogs struck track, ran it about 400 yards on a hemlock bank, and began barking up a birch tree on steep ground.

The night was very dark, so I buckled on the old weapon and up the tree I went as far as I could get. I could not see so I thought I would shake it out. When I tried to shake the tree would just swing.

I said to my cousin there is something on this tree larger than a coon. I cut a large sprout off of the tree, and began thrashing in the top of the tree. The dogs were watching for it to fall. It jumped out down the hill among the laurels. It made a powerful racket. Away went the dogs about two hundred yards and treed again, but the dogs did not know that it had jumped out. We left them on the track, and it ran a short distance and treed again. It would always jump out before we could get to the dogs. After it had been treed several times it let some of the awfulest yells you ever heard and got excited and left there as quickly as possible. So I believe all that kept me from seeing a panther was that it was too dark.

I will come agian.

C. P. Collins.

Milford, Florida.

UNCLE JOHNNY

HENRY M. SMITH

Henry M. Smith was born in Greenbrier county Sept. 13, 1885 and departed this life Oct. 27, 1927 at the age of 42. Mr. Smith was an employee of the C. & O R. R for many years and had charge of the station at Beard, W. Va., during the time that the lumber operations were going on at Denmar and Spice Run which made the office a very important one. He was very efficient and steady in his work and his close application to the duties of his office for so many years, no doubt brought on the ill health which finally resulted in his death at so early an age.

In the year Dec. 24, 1907, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Ethline Livasy of Frankford, W. Va and they set up housekeeping at Beard which was their only home until ill health forced him to give up work. There they made many friends and spent many happy years. During all these years it was my privilege and profit to know them and to rejoice with them in the happiness and prosperity which was theirs.

On Nov. 20, 1921 Mr. Smith united with the Presbyterian church upon prosession of faith and his pastor and all the members of the church were greatly encouraged to know that one who had always stood so well in the community and was so capable, had thrown his whole influence and example upon the side of the Kingdom of Christ. The grief and sorrow of all his friends can only be imagined when they learned that an insidious disease had attacked him and that he had to give up his position and removed to Frankford where for all these years he had lingered in gradual decline. The end came as a longed for release from a crushing burden. Eternity alone can reveal to us why one who was so well fitted to serve the Kingdom of Christ should be thus taken before he lived out half his days But God in his infinite wisdom willed it so and we can only say, "It is the Lord, let Him do what seemeth Him good."

There remain to bear the burden this grief, his wife and their children Lucile, Sterrill, Henry, Louise, Evia, and Ilene, and two sisters Mrs. John Mauze of Williamsburg, Mrs. S R Neel and one brother Harper Smith of Marlinton.

The West Virginia Public Health

BUSINESS MEN

On last Friday night a mass meeting of the business men of the community was held in the dining room of the Marlin Sewell Hotel. The purpose of the meeting was to hear the report of S. B. Wallace, who has just returned from New York, where he had met with the directors of the United States Leather Company in reference to the matter of rebuilding their large plant at Marlinton.

While Mr. Wallace could not say that the Marlinton Tannery would be rebuilt, he did say the matter was still under consideration and definite decision had been posponed until Tuesday.

The men present decided to organize a Business Mens' Cooperative Association of Marlinton. This was a wise move. If the tannery is rebuilt we will have an organization to cooperate with the big industry of our community. If the worst comes we will have an organization through which to work in seeking other industries.

S B. Wallace was elected president, and F. M. Sydnor, secretary A committee appointed for to draft and submit a constitution and bylaws

The following resolution was passed and signed by the business men of the town and mailed to the United States Leather Company.:

"Be it resolved by the Business Men's Co-operative Association of Marlinton, that it will at all times endeavor to induce industries to locate in our town, and that this Association will insist that all industries which shall locate in Marlinton, shall be treated fairly, and especially as to the matters of taxation, and necessary sewerage, and we assure the Union Tanning Company that if it shall rebuild its plant in our town that it will have at all times our most loya support."

Before adjourning all the members of the Association by a standing vote expressed their appreciation of Mr. Wallace and his well directed public spirited endeavors for the up building of the county and community.

CIRCULAR ON SHEEP RAISING

A 52 page circular giving a comprehensive discussion on everything from the status of the sheep industry in this state, to the diseases of

THE POCAHONTAS TIMES

Entered at the Postoffice at Marlin on, W. Va., as second class matter

CALVIN W. PRICE, EDITOR.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1927

What was Glade Hill has troubled the thinkers of this county for many years. It is a ridge on the bottom of Galford's Creek near Dunmore in sight of the State Highway. It is about a half mile long and about seventy feet high and looked at from a distance appears to be a grassy railway embankment of gigantic proportions. But examined more closely it assumes the shape of an overturned boat shaped like a log canoe, broad in in the center and running to a peak at both ends. It is covered with a carpet of fine blue grass sod without a weed to mar the smoothness of its coat. It is surrounded by rich farm bottom land, some of the best producing land in the county. On the east side rises the Allegheny mountain on the other side is a limestone hill. Glade Hill is such a symetrical mound that many have thought it to be the work of man, but the presence on its top of round creek pebbles has stood in the way of that theory.

Here is another guess at the origin of Glade Hill, on J. N. Wilfong's farm in Green Bank district. It is the work of a glacier in the ice age. Such hills are classified in the geologies as eskers, which comes from the Irish word, easera, meaning a ridge.

In the northern states, especially in Maine they are more common than this far south and they have a great development in Scandinavia where they run for many miles. In this country it was warm for many

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In the northern states, especially in Maine they are more common than this far south and they have a great development in Scandinavia where they run for many miles. In this country it was warm for many years and then it got cold. The Ice Age set in. After a period when the whole world had been warm and rainy, it began to get cold, and all the animal land life in the northern parts of creation perished or fled to the south. Many are supposed to have crowded into caves and perished there Many of the species disappeared entirely, especially the huge overgrown animals which could not withstand the cold winds on their great bulks and which could not outrun the approach of the first winter, and which had no place to shelter.

Up to that time the great rainfalls and the floods as well as the winds and the suns had been shaping the mountains and the land into accepted form. A mountain newly upheav-

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Up to that time the great rainfalls and the floods as well as the winds and the suns had been shaping the mountains and the land into accepted form. A mountain newly upheaved from the sea is a very crude affair. It takes the skilled hand of nature to smooth it into shape and trim it with leaves and flowers. In the years there had been laid down the big glade that was in time to be rich farms. It was in about the same shape that it is now, only it was about seventy feet higher, that is all of it was on the level with the top of the esker. It had been formed by the wash from the east, nobody knows how many miles away. Many of the stones had rolled on the bottom of the turbulent streams until they were round as balls. The surface of the bottom or glade was covered with them. Then the ice shut down on the world and some of the perpetual ice that the ineffectual summers could not melt, extended as far south and farther than Pocahontas county. Anyway there is no question but that the big glade on Galford creek, a branch of Sitlingtons

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It endured for a season, a geological season, and presently the the sun spot or whatever it was that caused the long cold spell got better and the ice began to melt and the streams came to life under the ice and commenced to wear away the surface and deliver the mud to the sea and this went on for a long time under the ice before the ice caps disappeared.

At Glade Hill, the bottom land was so broad that there was room for two streams to begin the cutting so one started on the west side of the level land and the other on the east side and it is the work of these streams ever widening and turning and changing their courses that account for the fine level fields on either side of the esker. For some reason or other there was a long winding strip of land on which the ice still held and as long as the freeze remained in that strip there was no

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The county road runs between the two, the gap being taken advantage of in the neighborhood road. The round creek bed stones on top of the ridge were not carried there from a lower level. They came from some

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The county road runs between the two, the gap being taken advantage of in the neighborhood road. The round creek bed stones on top of the ridge were not carried there from a lower level. They came from some much higher point when the top of the ridge was the bed of the stream.

Here are some of the names given to heaps and deposits made by the ice in the ice age;

Moraines. Irregular ridges, when terminal, transverse to the ice flow.

Drumlins, ovate hills, elongate, parallel to ice flow.

Kames, round to ovate hills grouped transverse to glacier.

Eskers, winding, elongate, parallel to ice flow.

Frontal aprons, outwash plains beyond morainal deposits.

A most magnificent set of kames are to be seen in the same valley to the south of Glade Hill and on the other side of Sitlingtons Creek in the

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I have given you all a lot of geology lately and I have no apology to make strictly speaking, any further than is due for the presentation of thoughts in general to an unwilling world. The modern scheme of civilization demands it however, and it more and more tends to the printed word rath-

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er than the spoken, for in a day of universal education the people become impatient of much speaking and prefer something they can drink or leave alone, like reading.

And all men of any intelligence or understanding are geologists. For a a man to say that he knows nothing about geology is nothing to boast about and it is not true. They know their way about and they know about the formation of the land on which they live and how to wrest a living from the soil and that is not only geology but practical geology. To be proud of not knowing geology would be like the soldier who came back from the camp during the late war, and exhibited an honorable discharge I think he showed it to me first for I was a member of the legal advisory board for the soldiers, and had a good deal to do with them. The paper stated that he had not been accepted for further service on the grounds of imbecility. I told him to guard that paper and keep it carefully but on no account to show it to anybody. If anybody asked for his papers to refer him to me.

Men know the difference between land whereon you can hardly grow a switch large enough to be used in the Taming of the Shrew, and the land where great trees grow and which

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Men know the difference between land whereon you can hardly grow a switch large enough to be used in the Tanning of the Shrew, and the land where great trees grow and which are ready to furnish comfort and provisions for the multitudes.

Probably the reason that the geology of the book is unpopular is because of the strange and unfamiliar names like paleozoic, mesozoic, and cenozoic. Those are names for ancient life, middle life, and modern life, and after you get the hang of the language it becomes easier.

All men know that limestone enriches land, that a sandstone will do to build a chimney, and coal will burn. I never took any stock in that story that is to be found in one of Mark Twain's books about the pioneer in the Appalachain mountains who built his chimney out of coal. I do not think it at all probable that any man ever made a break like that.

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And as to that part of geology that has to do with fossils, concerning which I am trying to find out about, as eagerly I once followed a deer track, I reminded a friend the other day that more men make a living out of fossils, than out of any other branch of industry, in West Virginia and this is eminently true, when you remember that coal is a fossil.

We have a lot of coal in Pocahontas county but owing to the great abundance of this source of light, heat, and power, in more favored sections of West Virginia, it is not likely that we will see it developed very soon. I understand that when a geologist of great renown announced that Randolph county had untold tons of New River coal, the word was received in silence, and no one seemed to realize what that will mean to that county.

After all is said and done, it is limestone that means more to the health and well being of mankind than any thing else in the world. It has even added a cubit to the height

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After all is said and done, it is limestone that means more to the health and well being of mankind than any thing else in the world. It has eveu added a cubit to the height of men.

I have been seeing our great county with new eyes of late years. In tracing the cause of this awakening, I believe that it is due to the fact that I learned to drive a rattling good ford, and I had an aversion to drive to a distant place and back again without an objective, so I began to study the history of the country as shown by the pieces of rocks. From my earliest recollection I have been an archaeologist, that is, one who studies the art and customs of an ancient people by their monuments and relics, or in other words, a great hunter and collector of In dian arrow heads and the like.

But historical geology has arch aeology beaten. Along came a mem-

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But historical geology has arch aeology beaten. Along came a member of the West Virginia Geological Survey and gave me the key, and thereby placed me under lasting obligations to him. Geology, a science so beneficial to one's country, and so honorable to oneself.

Hence this series of articles. My regret is that I do not have the keen eyesight of thirty years ago. The other day I was peering at the stones along the roadside when an aged farmer came riding by on the unusual horse. He said: "What are you doing? Hunting a rock to hit yourself with?" I had no reply ready for him, but afterwards it came to me and that was that I ought to have a rock to hit myself with because I had not taken to rocks years ago.

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There is no doubt that grass will grow in every part of the county once the trees are conquered and the sun allowed to shine upon the ground. And we are inclined to think that because the Big Lime is all on the west side of the river that the west side is the favored side. But that does not account for the splendid farms and pastures on the east side of the river and my recent observation has shown me that the land on the east side of the river has its full complement of lime

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Years ago Wesley Mollohan, one of the wisest men I ever knew, said that the reason that the Big Lime stopped with Greenbrier River was that it had weathered away over all of that territory to the east, and it is plain to be seen that if it is five hundred feet thick to the west that it must have been well out over the top of the Allegheny before it narrowed in shoal water. And in addition to that the Silurian limestone

T. S. McNeel F. F. McLaughlin

is well spead out over the east side of the mountains. I have not been able to make any thing like a careful searoh of the county, but I find sea shells all the way down the slope of the Alleghany, and where there is a mark of the sea shell, there is a rock that has some lime in it. It is the lime that preserves the traces of ancient life. I have found shell beds in every place where I have looked well. On Stove Hill near the crest of the mountain, at a run that comes in above the White place, at Minnehaha Springs, at Huntersville, at a place just below J. H. Buzzard's house, at the mouth of a run at the Jake place, and at the mouth of Stony Creek. That just about takes up the fifteen miles of sloping land between the top of the mountain and the Greenbrier River.

There is limestone, calcareous shale, and calcareous sandstone and it all makes good land. This chert that they have been putting on the highway is rich in lime and means good land where ever found.

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I do not know of any better way to see a cross section of Pocahontas county than to travel from the Rider Gap by way of Huntersville and Marlinton and Edray and Linwood to the Randolph county line. In that ride of about forty miles you could see Silurian, Devonian, and Carboniferous formations, probably the most diversified array of interesting rock to be found upon the surface of the earth.

I remember my first experience with judging fossils. I was coming through on the train and got down at Clifton Forge to stretch my legs while the engines were changed. A colored man approached me with a bit of rough stone on which there was a lizard about six inches long and said he would sell it for fifty cents. The question was whether it was a fossil or a bit of carving, and

through on the train and got down at Clifton Forge to stretch my legs while the engines were changed. A colored man approached me with a bit of rough stone on which there was a lizard about six inches long and said he would sell it for fifty cents. The question was whether it was a fossil or a bit of carving, and the symposium in the smoking room were divided on the subject. I was very well contented with my bargain, for I thought that if it was a fossil it was well worth the money for my collection, and if it was a carving it was still more wonderful as a work of art. That was more than twenty years ago. I know now that it was carved but I have not regretted it.

Longer ago than that a man brought me a fossil shark's tooth that he had found in the earth near Stony Bottom, and I gave fifty cents for that and I have carried it ever since. I had no trouble identifying it as that of a prehistoric shark, but it now appears that while this is a real fossil that it must have been carried here, for this part of the country is very ancient as the ages in the world go and that it was raised up out of the waters of the great deep long before there were any

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The only kind of sharks that eva swam in these waters were the kind that fed on shell fish and they did not have teeth. They had mouths fitted up like a stone crusher. They would go into a shell bed like a steam shovel and grind up a bushel of shell fish at each mouthful.

By next year there will be a large volume out on Pocahontas county by the West Virginia Geological Survey in which a complete study of the geological conditions here will be presented to the public. So I am taking some slight risk in presenting my opinions and conclusions in ad-

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By next year there will be a large volume out on Pocahontas county by the West Virginia Geological Survey in which a complete study of the geological conditions here will be presented to the public. So I am taking some slight risk in presenting my opinions and conclusions in advance But one of the first things that I learned in geology was that it was too big a game for any person to become perfect in, and that it is of all sciences the least exact. In fact it seems to me that if a geologist were to accept as facts all that had been written on the subject, and do no more, that he would be about the most useless of men. It seems to me that while it is right to accept the writings as facts, that they represent what has been discovered, and that if the new man cannot add to these facts by insight, work, observation, and imagination that he will accomplish nothing.

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Undoubtedly there has been no science which has changed so utterly as geology, within so short a time. And I am pretty well convinced that it is due to change still more in the next few years.

I am pretty well convinced from my reading that most of the geologists need a trip to Pocahontas county, on the roof of the world, and that a few weeks spent here would be equal to a liberal education and would open their eyes to the wonders that the Lord hath made.

My research has brought one petty triumph. Years ago a seeker after truth brought me stone beads which I pronounced to be Indian beads, and

a man at the Smithsonian would not have it so, and declared that they were crinid stems, or stone lillies. And so the matter rested until I saw in a book the other day by such a great geologist that ordinary geologists become stratified at the mere mention of his name, that the Seneca Indians used crinid stems for beads. I was right in the first instance for these were crinid stems cut into little sections with a hole through the center.

Notice to Tax-Payers

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned Sheriff of Pocahontas County will attend in person or by deputy at the following time and place for the purpose of collecting taxes:

GREENBANK DISTRICT